THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPADYESSO NAIK): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) This proposal has not been agreed to by this Ministry as Phuket Air is not presently designated by the Government of Thailand for operation of scheduled air services to India.

Mumbai Airport as an international airline hub

1962. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are seriously considering any proposal for the conversion of Mumbai airport into an international airline hub by treating it as a special economic zone besides creating new private airports on build, operate and transfer basis or build, own and operate basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) There is no proposal for conversion of Mumbai Airport into an international hub by treating it a Special Economic Zone. However, the State Government has plans to develop a Special Economic Zone in Navi Mumbai of which the proposed second International Airport at Navi Mumbai is stated to be an integral part.

Special Purpose Vehicle for privatisation of Airports

1963. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a revised proposal has been formulated recently to float a Special Purpose Vehicle, instead of outright leasing, for each of the four metropolitan airports for the privatisation programme;

(b) if so, the reasons for the revised formulation and the details thereof; and